



November 29, 2010

Dear Representative Dan Scripps, Chairman Jeff Mayes and Committee Members:

Thank you very much to Representative Scripps for introducing HB 6564 in the House, and to Chairman Mayes and the Committee for considering this important legislation. The West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) **supports** this bill and its Senate counterpart.

This legislation represents a chance for Michigan to take a lead nationally in regulating off-shore wind. As the primary stewards of the Great Lakes, 20% of the world's fresh water, Michiganders have a great responsibility in protecting this treasure.

Thoughtful development of clean, renewable energy is a crucial component in protecting our Great Lakes. Already, children and women of childbearing years are severely limited in their consumption of fish across the Great Lakes watershed, due in no small part to the mercury emitted by burning of fossil fuels.

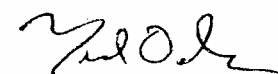
Currently, Michigan imports the vast majority of its fuel for electricity and transportation - including 100% of its coal and uranium, and 97% of our petroleum. With every unit of fossil fuel imported, Michiganders export their cash - precious capital needed in-state now more than ever. Producing energy (and the components and facilities needed to harness that energy) locally means jobs are created locally, and Michigan stands uniquely poised to capture the benefits of wind energy production and maintenance. Our strong manufacturing base, deep ports and entrepreneurial spirit are supported by the world's best research universities.

In passing HB 6564 Michigan can build a sound model that will serve as a guide to other Great Lakes states and to Canada. By responsibly building off-shore wind energy facilities, we can build wealth for Michigan and deliver our great environmental legacy - our Great Lakes - for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Rachel Hood
Executive Director


Nicholas Occhipinti
Policy and Community Activism Director

Leading environmental protection in West Michigan by inspiring action!

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